

EYE OPENER - FAITH PAGE

YOU ARE WORTHY OF GOD'S GRACE

Women, no matter their past or present circumstances, are deeply loved, valued, and empowered by God. This truth shines even brighter when we reflect on the stories and verses in the Bible that affirm God's care and forgiveness. Here are some powerful scriptures and insights to encourage women, especially those who may feel weighed down by guilt or shame.

1. God's Unconditional Love

Romans 8:38-39:

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

No matter what you've done or where you've been, God's love for you is unwavering. Paul's words remind us that nothing—not even our mistakes—can separate us from the love of God. This means that even if you've been caught in a cycle of sin, God's arms remain open, ready to embrace you when you turn to Him.

2. Forgiveness and Restoration

John 8:10-11:

"Jesus straightened up and asked her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she said. 'Then neither do I condemn you,' Jesus declared. 'Go now and leave your life of sin.'"

This story of the woman caught in adultery is a powerful example of God's grace. While others sought to condemn her, Jesus extended mercy and called her to a new path. His words remind us that God's forgiveness is available to everyone, no matter how deep their sins may feel. It's not about what you've done; it's about what God can do in and through you when you accept His love.

3. Your Worth in God's Eyes

Psalms 139:14:

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

Every woman is created uniquely and with purpose. This verse is a reminder that you are not defined by your mistakes or what others say about you. You are fearfully and wonderfully made by a loving Creator who sees your potential and beauty, even when you don't.

4. God's Plan for Redemption

Isaiah 1:18:

“Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.”

No sin is too great for God to forgive. This verse reminds us of God's promise to cleanse and renew us completely. If you've struggled with a painful past, know that God offers a fresh start and a clean slate through His mercy.

5. God Uses Imperfect People

Matthew 1:5:

“Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab...”

Rahab, a woman known as a prostitute, played a pivotal role in Israel's history by protecting the spies sent by Joshua. Despite her past, God used her to fulfill His purposes, and she became part of the lineage of Jesus Christ. Her story is a powerful reminder that your past does not disqualify you from being used by God.

6. God's Call to New Life

2 Corinthians 5:17:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

Through Christ, we are given a new identity. This means that your past no longer defines you. When you accept God's love and forgiveness, you step into a new life, full of hope and purpose.

Practical Steps to Embrace God's Love and Empowerment

- 1. Seek God's Word Daily:** Spend time reading and meditating on scripture. Let His promises fill your heart and mind.
- 2. Surround Yourself with Encouraging Community:** Find a church or group of believers who can support and uplift you.
- 3. Pray for Guidance and Healing:** Speak openly with God about your struggles and ask for His help to move forward.
- 4. Embrace Your New Identity:** Let go of guilt and shame, knowing that you are a beloved daughter of God.

Closing Encouragement

God's love for you is not dependent on your perfection. He specializes in redeeming lives and turning brokenness into beauty. No matter your past, you are not disqualified from His love, His purpose, or His plans. Stand tall, knowing that you are deeply loved and wonderfully made. Let these truths empower you to walk in the freedom and grace that God has given you.

HOW TO LET GOD IN

1. Acknowledge Your Need for God

Proverbs 3:5-6:

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Inviting God into your situation begins with trusting Him and surrendering your control. Letting go of your own understanding opens the door for God's guidance and wisdom to lead you.

2. Pray and Open Your Heart

Philippians 4:6-7:

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Prayer is a direct way to invite God into your life. Share your struggles, fears, and hopes with Him. When you do, His peace will fill your heart, even in the midst of uncertainty.

3. Seek God's Word for Guidance

Psalms 119:105:

“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.”

God's Word provides clarity and direction when life feels uncertain. Meditate on scripture to find encouragement and answers for your situation.

4. Walk in Faith

2 Corinthians 5:7:

“For we live by faith, not by sight.”

Letting God into your situation requires faith. Trust that even if you can't see the outcome, God is working behind the scenes for your good.

5. Trust God's Timing

Ecclesiastes 3:11:

“He has made everything beautiful in its time.”

God’s timing is perfect, even when it doesn’t align with our expectations. Be patient and trust that He will bring beauty and resolution in His time.

Practical Steps to Let God In

1. **Spend Time in Prayer:** Make it a daily habit to talk to God about your concerns and desires.
2. **Read the Bible Regularly:** Find passages that resonate with your situation and meditate on them.
3. **Surround Yourself with Supportive Believers:** Join a faith-based community that can encourage and pray with you.
4. **Practice Gratitude:** Thank God for His blessings, even during tough times, as this opens your heart to His presence.
5. **Release Control:** Surrender your worries and trust God to handle them.

Closing Encouragement

Letting God into your situation is an act of faith and trust. As you open your heart to Him, you will experience His peace, guidance, and strength. Remember that He is with you, working all things for your good. Trust in His love and walk boldly, knowing that you are never alone.

Steps to Pray Effectively

1. **Start with Praise and Gratitude:** Begin by thanking God for who He is and the blessings in your life. Acknowledge His greatness and express your gratitude.
 - **Example:** “Heavenly Father, I praise You for Your faithfulness and love. Thank You for the gift of today and for always being with me.”
2. **Confess Your Sins:** Be honest with God about your shortcomings and ask for His forgiveness.
 - **Example:** “Lord, I confess my sins before You. Forgive me for the times I have fallen short and cleanse my heart.”
3. **Present Your Requests:** Share your needs, concerns, and desires with God. Be specific and honest about what’s on your heart.

- **Example:** “Father, I lift up my situation to You. I need Your wisdom, guidance, and strength to navigate this season.”
- 4. **Listen for God’s Voice:** Spend a few moments in silence, allowing God to speak to your heart through His Spirit.
 - **Example:** Sit quietly and reflect on scripture or simply remain open to God’s prompting.
- 5. **End with Trust and Thanksgiving:** Close your prayer by reaffirming your trust in God and thanking Him for His faithfulness.
 - **Example:** “Lord, I trust in Your plans for my life. Thank You for hearing my prayers and for Your unwavering love.”

How to Determine If You Are Hearing from God

One of the most common questions in the Christian journey is, "How do I know if I’m hearing from God?" With so many voices—our own thoughts, the influences of the world, and even the enemy—it can sometimes be challenging to discern God’s voice. However, God desires to speak to His children, and He provides ways for us to recognize Him. Here are biblical principles and practical steps to help you determine whether you are hearing from God.

1. Align the Message with God’s Word

Scripture Reference: *2 Timothy 3:16-17* “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

God will never contradict His Word. If what you’re hearing aligns with the Bible—promoting love, truth, righteousness, and the fruits of the Spirit—it’s a strong indication that it’s from God. On the other hand, if the message contradicts God’s commands or leads to sin, it’s not from Him.

2. Does It Lead to Peace?

Scripture Reference: *Philippians 4:7* “And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

God’s voice often brings a sense of peace, even in challenging situations. If the message stirs fear, confusion, or anxiety, it might be coming from your own insecurities or the enemy. While God’s direction might challenge you or stretch your faith, it will ultimately bring peace and assurance.

3. Examine the Fruit

Scripture Reference: *Matthew 7:16* “By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?”

God’s voice leads to actions and outcomes that reflect His character. When you follow what you believe to be God’s leading, does it result in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control? If the outcome produces negative or harmful effects, it’s a sign that the voice wasn’t from God.

4. Seek Godly Counsel

Scripture Reference: *Proverbs 11:14* “Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.”

Share what you’ve heard with spiritually mature mentors or trusted friends in Christ. They can help confirm whether the message aligns with God’s Word and His character. Be open to their feedback and wisdom.

5. Test the Spirit

Scripture Reference: *1 John 4:1* “Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

Ask yourself these questions:

- Does this message glorify God or something else?
- Does it acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord?
- Does it encourage obedience to God’s commands? By testing the spirit of the message, you can discern whether it is from God.

6. Pray for Confirmation

Scripture Reference: *James 1:5* “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”

Ask God to confirm the message you’ve received. He may do so through Scripture, circumstances, or even the counsel of others. Be patient and trust that God will make His will clear in His perfect timing.

7. Is It Rooted in Love?

Scripture Reference: *1 Corinthians 13:4-7* “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”

God’s voice will always reflect His nature of love. If the message encourages bitterness, hatred, or pride, it’s not from God. His guidance will always lead you toward love, reconciliation, and humility.